

# Science Knowledge Map - Spring 1 - Evolution and Inheritance

Charles Darwin, an evolutionary scientist, studied different animal and plant species, which allowed him to see how ad-



What is a fossil?

A fossil is the preserved remains of an organism, either animal or plant, that has been in the earth for millions of years. The organism dies and gets buried under multiple layers of rock and silt - as the flesh degrades the bones remain and a fossil is left behind.

Who finds fossils?

Palaeontologists spend their lives digging up fos-

## Vocabulary

1	adaptation	a change in structure or function that improves the chance of survival for an animal or plant within a given environment
2	characteristics	the qualities or features that belong to them and make them recognisable
3	evolution	a process of change that takes place over many generations, during which species of animals, plants, or insects slowly change some of their physical characteristics
4	species	a class of plants or animals whose members have the same main characteristics and are able to breed with each other
5	mutation	characteristics that are not inherited from the parents or ancestors and appear as new characteristics.
6	inherit	If you inherit a characteristic you are born with it, because your parents or ancestors also had it.
7	natural selection	a process by which species of animals and plants that are best adapted to their environment survive and reproduce, while those that are less well adapted die out

